RORAIMA NURSERY

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RORAIMA PLANT PROFILE

Aloidendron dichotomum

Recently changing its name from **Aloe dichotoma** to Aloidendron dichotomum is The Quiver Tree. Native to South Africa and parts of Southern Namibia where it can reach up to 7m height over a period of 80 years as opposed to local conditions where it can reach 3-4.5m. As the tree ages, the trunk bears colors and textures that become a feature in your garden. As pictured to the right is an image of a Quiver Tree in Roraima's developing garden that is approximately 25 - 30 years old and has only begun to reveal these colors and textures in the last few years. Now that it is in the ground, the growth rate should increase and we will witness the formation of an architectural trunk like that of a garden in country Victoria where the trunk and foliage images above and below left were taken.

Nectar feeding birds are attracted to the bright yellow flowers as that appear around mid-Winter. It is known that the Aloidendron dichotomum can take several years before it flowers and then should flower yearly after that. Roraima's Aloidendron dichotomum only flowered for the first time last year. We have heard from a customer who has seen their potted plant flower after only 7 years. Over time, multiple branches form, shaping the tree to a majestic eye catching piece of natural sculpture in your garden! Preferring full sun and free draining soil, it is an easy plant to maintain. As pictured to the right they are available in 16cm terracotta pots for $24.95 or 25 cm pots for only $44.95.

WINTER WONDERS

Senecio petasitis

Commonly known as Californian Geranium and native to Mexico is this delicate looking velvety leaf plant that bears clusters of bright yellow flowers in Winter. If it's color you wish to add to your Winter garden, this broadleaf evergreen shrub is for you. Prefers Full Sun/Part Shade, free draining rich soil. Can reach 2 - 2.5.m height and width and can be cut back if it gets too big. Best to prune early Spring when it has finished flowering. This Senecio is frost tender so caution is recommended when planting it out in the garden. If you would like one of these plants, they will be available around late Winter early Spring. We expect them to be in 20 or 25cm pots and price yet to be determined. Once available, we can put one aside for you and confirm the price. Best to call us and reserve one if you are interested.

Aechmena fasciata

Being part of the Bromeliad family and native to Brazil is the long lasting flowering Aechmena fasciata. Requires partial shade and like all Bromeliads watering in the centre of the plant where the water is held over a period of time. Not necessary to water the soil or potting mix like you would normally with plants. If you cannot see water in the well, then it requires a water. Multiplies like all bromeliads and in time you will have a clump of these spectacular plants. With bromeliads, the adult rosette dies after flowering but should have had pups prior to this. Occasionally you hear of people who have seen the same plant flower twice. Reaching approximately 50cm height it is a great plant for the front or middle of the garden bed (if you are growing taller plants behind), or even mass planting. Very easy to care for. Prefers morning sun/light shade and a free draining soil. Pictured to the right are Roraima's Aechmena fasciatas in 20cm pots for only $30.00 each.

Opuntia polycantha var. erinacea

Commonly known as Grizzly Bear/Prickly Pear is the pictured Opuntia to the left that began its life at Roraima Nursery as just a small plant around 10 years ago. Growing in a tree stump it currently stands at 2.3m tall. Native to North America it is an extremely easy plant to grow. Flowering time here is late Autumn/early Winter. Survives well with very little water once established. Prefers full sun and a free draining soil. Currently available by the cuttings at $10 each. Please call prior to visiting us so that we can have the cutting ready for you.

Cestrum nocturnum

Native to the West Indies but natralised in South Asia is this luscious shrub. Growing 2-3 metres height and width the Cestrum prefers full sun/part shade and a rich soil. Narrow glossy green leaves year round with the greenish-white tubular flowers appearing late Autumn/early Winter. The sweet perfume from these blooms can be appreciated late in the day. Berries appear after flowering providing more color with the aubergine berries. Preferring full sun/part shade and well-drained soil, it is available in 20cm pots as pictured to the right for only $14.95.

Thyrsacanthus tubaeformis

Previously known as Odontonema strictum the Firespike as it is commonly known grows 1.2 – 1.5m height and width. What better way to brighten up the darker time of the year. Flowers appear late Autumn and last through till mid-winter. Native to South America it prefers full sun/part shade in a frost-free/wind protected position along with a free draining rich soil. Regular pruning welcomed and it therefore creates a more bushy appearance. Available in 14cm pots for only $8.95 as pictured to the right.

Senecio anteuphorbium

Native to Morocco and commonly known as Swizzle Sticks is this summer dormant deciduous shrub that can locally reach .8 – 1.2m height. Adding a shade of blue to the garden it prefers full sun/part shade and a free-draining soil. The Swizzle Sticks plant does have a has a sweet fragrance when the cream flowers appear in Spring. Swizzle Sticks prefers the soil to dry out between watering and will not tolerate frosty areas in the garden. Available in 10cm pots as pictured to the right for only $7.95.

Aeonium aureum fa. dodrentale

Previously known as Aeonium dodrentale and Greenovia dodentrale is this native to The Canary Islands. A very attractive plant that grows as a stemless rosette, freely offsetting to form clumps. It prefers full sun/part shade in a well-drained soil and should be protected from heavy frosts. Suitable for both garden beds and pots. Like all Aeoniums, they are monocarpic, hence after exhibiting the brightly colored mass of tiny flowers the adult plant will die but should have produced pups prior to flowering. Available in 10cm pots as pictured to the right for only $5.95.

Aeonium aureum

Native to The Canary Islands is Aeonium aureum generally being a clumping species that can form clumps up to 45cm diameter. Has been known to not offset and become a large individual plant with a diameter of 35cm. Preferring morning sun/partial shade and a free draining soil makes it a low maintenance plant. It is a monocarpic plant and bears bright yellow clumps of small flowers in Spring. The flower stem appears from the centre of the plant pushing its way higher and higher until providing vivid color with the small yellow flowers. As pictured to the right are our Aeonium aureums in 10cm pots for only $5.95.

Aloe arborescens ‘Lutea’

A drought tolerant (once established) succulent that bears bright yellow flowers during Winter. Not only brightening up the winter garden, but providing some nectar for the birds who constantly hover around the flowers. Pictured to the left is Roraima’s aloe in flower. This bush would be approximately 10 years old. Preferring full sun this aloe can tolerate light frost only. If in doubt, plant under an evergreen tree to provide protection from the frost. Can reach 1.5m in both height and width. Available in 14cm pots as pictured to the right for only $7.95.

TERMS USED IN THE PLANT WORLD

This is a new section in our Newsletter where we will endeavor to source a new word each quarter and explain the meaning so that everyone understands.

Our first is "**monocarpic.**"

A monocarpic plant is a plant that flowers, sets seed and then dies. It may take several years for the plant to flower which gives the plant time to have pups around the base like Aeoniums **or** either pups around the base and/or produces bulbils on the flowering stem like some Agaves. Either way, you will be able to produce more plants be it from seed, pups or bulbils. A good example of bulbils is a Furcrea beddinghausii which has hundreds of bulbils after flowering.
The following plants are only some monocarpic examples: Aeoniums, Furcreas, Agaves, Sempervivums, Bromeliads & Doryanthus. As pictured to the right is a Sempervivum flowering with several offsets around it to continue growing.

WINTER GARDENING

At the beginning of the cooler season, it is always best to prepare for those cold nights ahead. For those of you in areas that receive frosts, it is suggested you prepare your tender plants like Brugmansias, Tradescantia purpurea, Crassula ovata etc. by spraying them with a protectant such as Yates Drought Shield which coats the plant with a fine film of protective cover that helps repel light frost. Another way to avoid disappointment from frost would be to cover with sheets of plastic or weed mat etc.

How to successfully delete Oxalis pes-caprae from your garden

For all of those who have endlessly tried to rid this weed from your garden, we have some good news for you. Appearing in late Autumn and is in full flower as pictured to the right during Winter, we finally know how to treat it. Through personal experience, we have proved that by spraying this weed with a form of glyphosate like Roundup **anytime during the month of August**, will not only destroy the weed you see, but also the bulbs underground, which would normally make an appearance the following year if you had tried poisoning the weed prior to August. Provided you have not previously poisoned them this season, you won't be sorry if you give it a go and follow these instructions. Many thanks to Mike Healy of the Ballarat Cactus and Succulent Society who advised us of this and then we put it to practice to prove it does work!

Don’t forget to have a look at us on facebook. Keep your eyes open for new plants and **special offers**.

We hope you enjoy your Winter gardening and should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at Roraima Nursery. Be it in person, online or by phone, we will do our very best to look after you and your gardening needs.

Happy gardening,
From all at Roraima Nursery